

Completed Dec 27th 1829

My dear M^r Brown

My dear Mr. Brown (1811) (1811) To the aggressor I am too happy to escape the apology I owe you on my long silence and gladly to take your hint and say nothing about it. The best reparation I can make is to answer your letter of today as soon as possible ~~alighting~~ ^{alighting}. I received it only this morning in the hopes that have intervened before I sit down to answer it my feelings have entirely changed on the subject of the request it contains. Perhaps you will think I was opposed to it and am now come over to your side the question, but it just ~~just~~ ^{just} the contrary had I answered your letter ~~as soon as I received it~~ ^{immediately} I should have told you that I considered myself as entirely unconnected with Mr. Keats except by my own feelings that nothing published respecting him could affect me. But I now see it differently. We have all our little world in which we figure and I cannot help ~~feeling~~ ^{feeling} ~~some reluctance~~ ^{disinclination to the effect} that the few acquaintance I have should be able to ~~obtain such~~ ^{obtain such} ~~half as they to my feelings~~ ^{half as they to my feelings}. However said as much you will probably conclude that I mean to refuse your request. Perhaps when I assure you that through my opinion has changed my intentions of complying with all in coming respect with your wishes ~~demands~~ ^{demands} you will think I am mentioning my objections to make a favor of my consent. But indeed my dear Mr. Brown if you do you mistake me entirely. It is only to ~~make~~ ^{justify} ~~myself~~ ^{myself} I see that I state all I think. I ought to you I am very grateful now might I to have gone as far without thanking you for your kind and consideration in writing to me on the subject. ~~How absurd have I now experienced~~ ^{How truly do I now experience} that it is sometimes impossible. I assure you I should not have hesitated that your wishes were painful to me did I not feel that the suffering myself to be even alluded to want a want of pride. So far am I from ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~supposing~~ ^{supposing} ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances} ~~delicacy~~ ^{delicacy} that the circumstance of its being a love story is the least of my concern, in the contrary had it been this wife I should have felt my present reluctance would have been ~~as much~~ ^{as much} ~~stronger~~ ^{stronger} that I think I must have made it my request to you to ~~relinquish~~ ^{relinquish} ~~your intention~~ ^{your intention}. The only thing that comes over now is that as very few can know I am in any way implicated and that of those few there is ~~as good as~~ ^{as good as} ~~none~~ ^{none}. I can only hope the greater number may never see the book in question. So then entirely as you please and be assured that I comply with your wish.

rather because they are yess than with the expectation of any good that can be done. I fear the kindest act would be to let him rest for ever in the obscurity to which ^{unhappy} ~~unfortunate~~ circumstances ^{have} condemned him. Will the writings that remain of his rescue him from it? You can tell better than I ~~can~~, and are more ~~likely~~ impartial on the subject for my wish has long been that his name, his very name could be forgotten by every one but myself that I have often wished most intensely. ~~Never~~ ^{I was more generous} ~~I was more generous~~ ^{like} ten years ago, I should not have ~~wished~~ ^{wished} the vision of him connected with one who had ~~been~~ ^{been} his way against poverty and ~~consequence~~ ^{consequence} of ~~it~~ ^{it}. To your publishing his poems addressed to me I do not see there can be any objection ^{except} the subject has been ~~alluded to~~ ^{alluded to} if you think them worthy of him. I entirely agree with you that if his life is to be published no part ought to be kept back that can will for all you can show his character. His life was too short and too unfortunate for any thing else. I have no doubt that his talents would have been great, not the less for their being developed late rather late which I believe they ^{were} ~~were~~ all I fear is whether he has left enough to ~~show that~~ ^{to make} people believe that. If I could think or I should think it right ^{to make} ~~to make~~ to his reputation that I now do to your kind motives. Not that the establishment of his fame would give me the pleasure it ought ~~to do~~. Without claiming too much consolation for myself I may ~~say~~ truly say that he is well remembered by me and that satisfied with that I could wish no one but myself knew he had ever existed but I confess that as he was so much calumniated and suppressed so much from it it is perhaps the duty of those who loved and valued him also to vindicate him also, and if that can be done, all the friend that time has left him and I above all must feel he deeply indebted to you. I am glad you feel that Mr Hunt in gives him a weakness of character that ^{only} belonged to his ill health. Mr Hazlitt, if I remember rightly some remarks read five or six years ago is still more positive in fixing it on him. ~~As~~ ^I ~~lost~~ ^{lost} him I should be glad if you would approve I was a very poor judge of character ten years ago and ~~was~~ ^{was} probably overrated every good quality he had but surely they go too far on the other side. after all he was but four and twenty when his illness began and he had and he had gone through a great deal of ~~reaction~~ ^{reaction} before